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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **sSB 1227**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE PREVENTION OF URBAN YOUTH DELINQUENCY AND VIOLENCE AND THE CRIMINAL LIABILITY OF PARENTS OR GUARDIANS OF CHILDREN WHO ILLEGALLY POSSESS FIREARMS.***

#### **SUMMARY:**

This bill holds parents criminally liable when they know that their minor child has a firearm and fail to get him or her to give it up. It also

1. authorizes \$1.5 million in bonds for community improvement projects,
2. creates a 10% job set-aside in these community improvement projects for youth and young adults ages 16 to 25, and
3. authorizes Hartford service providers to inventory positive youth development programs and design a process to identify at-risk 16- and 17-year-olds and refer them to the programs.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2011, for the firearm possession provision, July 1, 2011 for the bonding authorization; January 1, 2012, for the set-aside program; and upon passage for the program inventory.

#### **GUN POSSESSION BY A MINOR**

Under the bill, any parent or guardian who knows that his or her child has a firearm (a sawed-off shotgun, machine gun, rifle, shotgun, pistol, revolver, or other weapon from which a shot may be discharged) is subject to a criminal penalty: imprisonment for up to one year, a fine of up to \$2,000, or both.

If the child injures or kills someone with the firearm, parental liability increases to imprisonment for up to three years, a fine of up to \$5,000, or both.

## **BONDS**

The bill authorizes the State Bond Commission to authorize up to \$1.5 million in bonds for the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) to use for grants-in-aid for three community projects to:

1. the Metropolitan Economic Commission, \$500,000 for elderly housing;
2. the John E. Rogers African American Cultural Center, \$500,000 for converting the former Northwest-Jones School to a cultural center; and
3. Catholic Charities in Hartford, \$500,000 for affordable, supportive housing.

## **CONNECTICUT YOUNG ADULT CONSERVATION CORPS**

Within appropriations, the bill requires the DECD commissioner to establish a Connecticut Young Adult Conservation Corps similar to the former federal Young Adult Conservation Corps. The new program must employ youth and young adults at one of the three grants-in-aid projects described above.

Under the program, the head of the organization that operates the facility must set aside 10% of the jobs for employable youth and young adults. The set-aside requirement begins in the fiscal year after the one in which the organization receives the DECD funds. It must continue for a total of five fiscal years.

The DECD commissioner may grant an organization an extension of time to comply with the set-aside requirement for good cause.

## **INVENTORY OF HARTFORD COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES**

Within available resources, the bill requires the Judicial Branch's Court Support Services Division to collaborate with one or more private providers of community-based services for children and families in Hartford. It may be a family support center (i.e., a community-based multi-service center for children in crisis).

The purpose of the collaboration is to:

1. inventory Hartford programs and services that promote positive youth development and reduce the number of youth (16- and 17-year-olds) who come into contact with the juvenile justice system and
2. design a process for identifying at-risk youth to refer to such programs.

***Program Types***

The inventory must indicate the type of services each program offers, including:

1. screening and assessment;
2. crisis intervention;
3. family mediation;
4. educational evaluations and advocacy;
5. mental health treatment and services, including gender-specific trauma treatment and services;
6. resiliency skill-building;
7. access to positive social activities;
8. short-term respite care; and
9. access to services available to children and youth in the juvenile justice system.

The chief court administrator must submit a report to the Judiciary Committee specifying the inventoried programs and process designed for identifying and referring at-risk children. The report is due February 1, 2012.

***Audits***

The bill gives the DECD commissioner authority to audit the financial, corporate, and business records of the three department-funded organizations. She may also conduct an investigation to determine compliance with the bill's requirements.

***Attorney General Action***

The bill authorizes the attorney general to sue any organization that fails to set aside the jobs. He may either seek compliance or recovery of the wages that would have been paid to the youths and young adults had the organization satisfied its set-aside responsibilities.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 45 Nay 0 (04/15/2011)